

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

- ☐ 385 North Arrowhead Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 - (909) 884-4056
- ☐ 1647 East Holt Boulevard - Ontario, CA 91761 - (909) 458-9673
- ☐ 13911 Park Avenue, Suite 200 - Victorville, CA 92392 - (760) 243-3773
- ☐ San Bernardino County Vector Control Program  
2355 East 5th Street - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0064 - (909) 388-4600

MARGARET D. SMITH  
Interim Public Health Director

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Interim Assistant Director of Public Health

Margaret Beed  
Health Officer

Also serving the cities of

Adelanto	Montclair
Apple Valley	Needles
Barstow	Ontario
Big Bear Lake	Rancho Cucamonga
Chino	Redlands
Chino Hills	Rialto
Colton	San Bernardino
Fontana	Twentynine Palms
Grand Terrace	Upland
Hesperia	Victorville
Highland	Yucaipa
Loma Linda	Yucca Valley

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

June 13, 2007

PHD # 07-95

**Joan Mulcare, REHS**  
Program Manager  
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## FIRST POSITIVE BIRD FOR WEST NILE VIRUS REPORTED FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY IN 2007

The UC Davis Center for Vectorborne Diseases reported the first positive test for West Nile Virus (WNV) in San Bernardino County for the 2007 season. On May 30, 2007, the Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services, Vector Control Program collected a dead bird, an American Kestrel from the 1000 block of Inland Center Drive in the City of San Bernardino. The bird was submitted to the UC Davis Veterinary Diagnostic Lab for testing.

The 2007 WNV season has appeared later than the last few years when positive test results came in as early as March. Counties surrounding San Bernardino County, including Riverside, Orange, Los Angeles, Imperial, and Kern have all reported positive WNV results earlier this season. The WNV season can continue well into the fall months and additional positive birds and mosquitoes, as well as the potential for human and equine cases, are expected during this time. The San Bernardino County Vector Control

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Program (SBCVCP) will continue WNV control activities that consist of mosquito trapping, education, surveys, identification, elimination and treatment of mosquito breeding sites on a year-round basis.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to people and animals by infected mosquitoes. A mosquito first acquires WNV by feeding on an infected bird with virus in its blood. The virus lives in the mosquito and is then transmitted to a new host by the mosquito's saliva when the insect bites a person or animal.

The majority of people who are infected with the virus have a mild illness or no symptoms. In about 1% of the cases, the virus can cause the more serious condition of encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. Those most at risk are people over the age of 50 or those who have a compromised immune system.

County residents can reduce the risk of WNV **by following the 5 Ds:**

- Drain or Dump...**Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- Dawn and Dusk...**Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.
- Dress...**Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.
- DEET...**Apply insect repellent containing DEET, according to manufacturer's directions.
- Doors...**Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering home.

If you have questions or concerns or if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or you have standing water or green pools in your area, call San Bernardino County Vector Control Program at 800-44-ABATE (800-442-2283) or (909)388-4600. If you are in the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario,

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Montclair or Rancho Cucamonga call (909)635-0307 for the West Valley Vector Control District. You may also visit our website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/vectorcontrol](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/vectorcontrol) or the California Health Services West Nile website at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) for more information on Vector Control or West Nile Virus. To report dead birds call the California Department of Health Services at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473) or report on line at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).

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MARK H. UFFER  
County Administrative Officer

MARK H. UFFER, CLERK OF SUPERVISORS, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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